

Worker's House
1724 Jefferson Street
Nashville
Davidson County
Tennessee

HABS No. TENN-26

HABS
TENN,
H-NASH,
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. TENN-26

WORKER'S HOUSE

Location: 1724 Jefferson Street, Nashville, Davidson County,
Tennessee

Present Owner: John H. Hughes

Present Occupant: Unknown

Present Use: Rental dwelling

Statement of Significance: This one-story brick building is a surviving example of the working-class houses built in Nashville during the period 1865-1900--the modest small structure so difficult to preserve, the first to disappear with city growth and the onrush of time.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1870.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Builder: Unknown.
4. Original and subsequent owners: The original owner has not been determined. The present owner, John H. Hughes, rents the structure out as a dwelling.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This one-story brick residence with Italian-villa details is a remaining example of the small working-class houses built during the period 1865-1900. Once found extensively in Nashville, blocks of these houses have been demolished as a consequence of city growth, urban renewal and slum clearance.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The main block of this free standing, one-story house is three bays wide on the front and approximately rectangular in shape--the entrance bay on the right end of the front elevation projects slightly. There is a one-story extension of the house on the north rear.
2. Wall construction, finish and color: Brick, painted green.
3. Chimney: There is one brick inside end chimney with corbeled cap on the west gable end of the main block.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The recessed main entrance is centered in a slightly projecting pavilion on the right end of the front facade. It has a compound rounded-arch wooden frame with a fanlight and a transom bar with molded panels. The wooden door has molded panels in the lower section and one light in the upper section.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The front facade contains two windows with one-over-one-light double-hung wooden sash in segmentally arched openings. At these windows there are louvered two-panel wooden shutters which swing on iron pintles.
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The main block has a gable roof with standing seam metal roofing. The rear extension has a shed roof.
 - b. Cornice: On the front of the main block there is a heavy molded wooden cornice supported at intervals by double brackets. The cornice and deep frieze return onto the gable ends.

C. Description of Interior:

The interior was not available for examination. However, the usual plan of such a house features a narrow entry with a parlor to one side. This entry would open onto one end of a long porch, from whence the other rooms of the house opened. These tiny houses of two, three, or four rooms were often extended with wooden, tin-roofed "summer kitchens" and various lean-tos.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces south on Jefferson Street, with a small front lawn, foundation plantings, and a concrete walkway which runs from the public sidewalk to the front step.
2. Outbuildings: A hip-roofed garage stands to the east, on a line with the front of the house.
3. Walks, enclosures: The house and garage are connected at the front by a tall latticework fence with door, concealing the grass plot and walkway which run between the two structures to the back of the lot. The property is surrounded on the front and on the west side by a wrought- and cast-iron fence with gates--whose supporting members are embedded in a low concrete wall. The bow-and-arrow fence motif repeats the shape of the rounded front-door frame.

Prepared by John W. Kiser
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
May 1974

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the summer of 1971 as part of a co-operative project of the National Park Service, the Tennessee Historical Commission, and the Historic Sites Federation of Tennessee. The work represented the second phase of an extensive recording program to document the historic architecture of Middle Tennessee and involved the recording of structures in the counties surrounding Nashville.

The project was under the direction of James C. Massey, at that time Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Supervisor of the recording team was Prof. Roy C. Pledger of Texas A & M University. The team was composed of John W. Kiser, Architectural Historian (University of Tennessee); Daryl P. Fortier, Architect (University of Minnesota); and student architects Gilbert M. Glaubinger (Rhode Island School of Design), Steve P. Roberts (Ohio State University), and Barry S. Williams (Texas A & M University). Photographs were made by Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer. Professor Kiser provided additional data in May 1974.